

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 06BEIRUT2509, TGLE01: UNREP WITH OMINOUS MESSAGE FROM HIZBALLAH

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06BEIRUT2509**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">06BEIRUT2509</a>	<a href="#">2006-08-01 13:00</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">SECRET//NOFORN</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Beirut</a>

Appears in these articles:

[not](#)  
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VZCZCXRO7006  
OO RUEHAG RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHKUK  
DE RUEHLB #2509 2131300  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
O 011300Z AUG 06  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4851  
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T BEIRUT 002509

SIPDIS

NOFORN  
SIPDIS

NSC FOR ABRAMS/DORAN/SINGH/HARDING

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/01/2026  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [PTER](#) [KISL](#) [LE](#) [SY](#) [IS](#)  
SUBJECT: TGLE01: UNREP WITH OMINOUS MESSAGE FROM HIZBALLAH

¶1. (S/NF) Geir Pedersen, the UN Secretary General's Personal Representative for Lebanon, contacted the Ambassador on 8/1 to say that he had received an "alarming message" from his "usual contact." (Note: Pedersen's usual contact is Hizballah's Wafiq Safa. End note.) The message was initially reassuring: The contact told Pedersen that, upon the Israeli announcement of a 48-hour lull in aerial activity, Hizballah likewise stopped firing rockets into Israel. Hizballah is willing to extend its pause in rocket attacks if Israel extends the 48-hour period.

¶2. (S/NF) But, the Hizballah contact said, it appears to Hizballah Israel had lied. The aerial bombardment has not stopped. Cutting Pedersen off when he tried to explain that the Israelis never said it would stop completely, the contact said that the Israelis imply de-escalation but instead escalate. Hizballah, in turn, would escalate, too, unless Israel stopped. Hizballah's rocket capabilities are intact, and Hizballah will have a "strong answer" for the Israeli actions.

¶3. (S/NF) Pedersen interpreted his contact's comments as suggesting that Hizballah would fire a longer range, more powerful missile. Pedersen said that he passed the message via UN channels to the Israelis, in hopes that the Israeli ground assault is scaled back so as to avoid provoking the Hizballah reaction that could "engulf the region," in Pedersen's words. He hoped we could do the same.

¶4. (S/NF) COMMENT: For several days, Pedersen has been convinced that all the pieces are in place for a major escalation of hostilities that will take the region into the unknown. He believes that Hizballah wants to show off its long-range rockets and seeks an Israeli excuse to use one. Pedersen is worried that Iranian Foreign Minister Mottaki's visit to Beirut today might have tilted Hizballah even further in the direction of firing upon Tel Aviv. So Pedersen is obsessed with trying to persuade the Israelis to back down to avoid giving Hizballah a pretext for escalation. Intellectually, Pedersen knows that the Israelis are unlikely to want to back down, giving Hizballah both a victory and the retention of its ability to keep much of Israel within rocket range. But he sees major escalation as the more immediate danger and the outcome he believes we all should want most to avoid. End comment.  
FELTMAN